

MOON KNIGHT™

MARVEL

LEMIRE / FRANCAVILLA / TORRES / STOKOE / SMALLWOOD / GARLAND / BELLAIRE

#8



MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. BUT MOON KNIGHT WAS JUST ONE OF A FEW IDENTITIES MARC USED TO PROTECT THOSE WHO TRAVEL BY NIGHT: CABBIE JAKE LOCKLEY KEPT HIS EAR TO THE GROUND, AND FINANCIER AND FILM PRODUCER STEVEN GRANT FUNDED THE OPERATION. EVENTUALLY, MARC WENT COMPLETELY INSANE AND DISAPPEARED. HE RETURNED TO CONTINUE HIS FIGHT, IN SPITE OF HIS TENUOUS GRIP ON REALITY.



INCARNATIONS: PART 3 OF 4

KHONSHU ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY MARC'S MIND IN ORDER TO OVERTAKE HIS BODY AND USE IT TO ENTER OUR WORLD. MARC RESISTED, DESTROYING HIMSELF RATHER THAN ALLOWING KHONSHU TO DOMINATE THE EARTH. NOW, JAKE, STEVEN, AND A SPACE PILOT NAMED MARC SPECTOR, WHO'S DEFENDING HUMANKIND FROM WEREWOLVES, FIND THEIR LIVES BLURRING AND OVERLAPPING, CAUSING THEM TO FORGET WHO AND WHERE THEY ARE...

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WAIT
OUTSIDE, I'M
TAKING OVER THE
INVESTIGATION.

UH,
OF COURSE,
DETECTIVE
EMMET. SORRY,
MA'AM.



EMMET?
DO I--DO I
KNOW YOU FROM
SOMEWHERE?

NO.



MISTER SPECTOR,
I HAVE EIGHT DEAD IN
A DINER AND THAT
SHOULD BE THE MOST
DISTURBING THING ABOUT
MY NIGHT. BUT IT'S NOT.
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT IS?

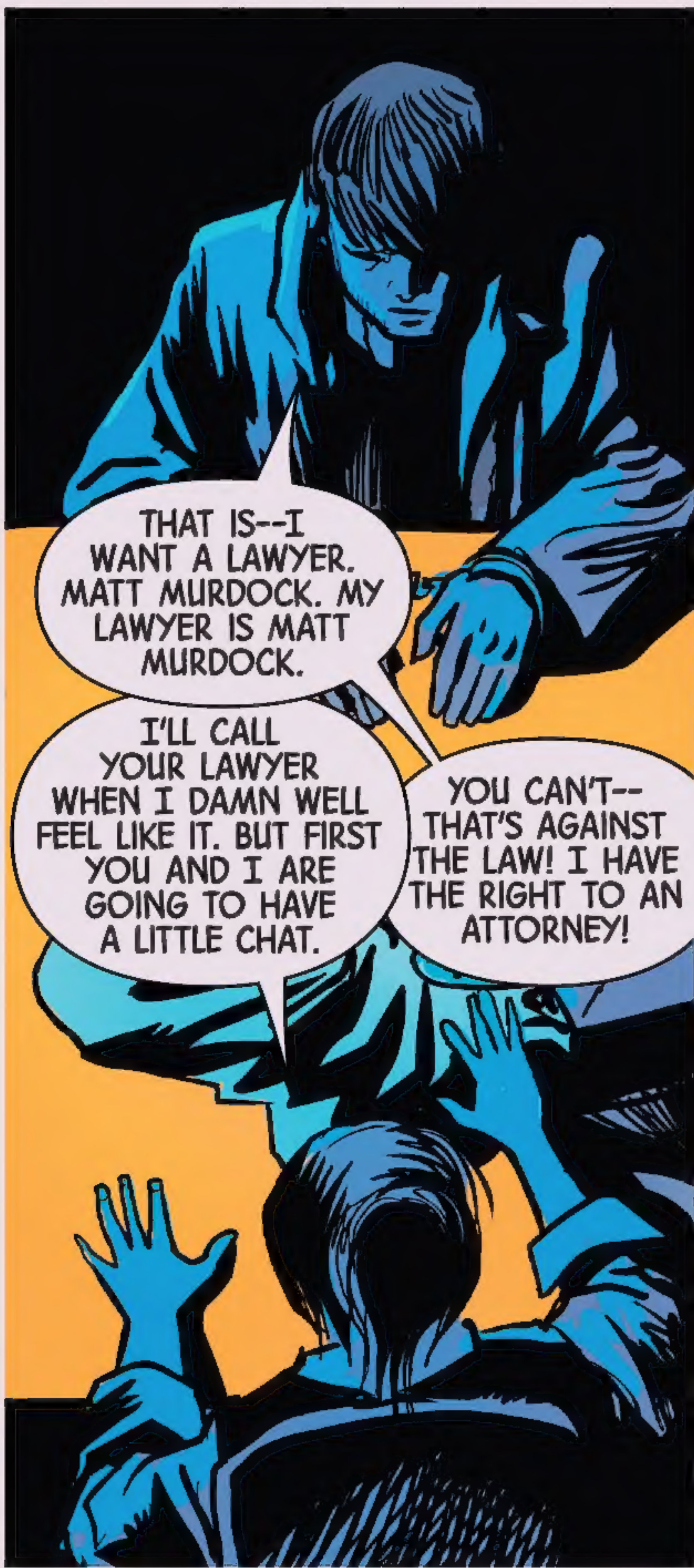
N-NO.



THIS
IS.

WE FOUND IT IN
THE TRUNK OF THE
TAXI CAB REGISTERED
UNDER YOUR ALIAS,
JAKE LOCKLEY.





THAT IS--I WANT A LAWYER. MATT MURDOCK. MY LAWYER IS MATT MURDOCK.

I'LL CALL YOUR LAWYER WHEN I DAMN WELL FEEL LIKE IT. BUT FIRST YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT.

YOU CAN'T-- THAT'S AGAINST THE LAW! I HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY!



AND THOSE POOR PEOPLE IN THE DINER HAD A RIGHT TO EAT THEIR SALISBURY STEAK WITHOUT YOU SLAUGHTERING THEM.



I DIDN'T DO THAT! I--I GOT IN AN ACCIDENT. MY TAXI. I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT. WHEN I WOKE UP, I WENT TO THE DINER AND FOUND THOSE PEOPLE LIKE THAT!

YOUR TAXI SHOWS ABSOLUTELY NO SIGN OF AN ACCIDENT.



I KNOW-- THE ACCIDENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN--MIGHT HAVE BEEN...

MIGHT HAVE BEEN WHAT?



NOTHING. I WANT MY LAWYER.

YOUR FILE SAYS THAT YOU HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS, MISTER SPECTOR.



THIS ACCIDENT...
IT WAS A **DELUSION**.
SO IS THIS JAKE LOCKLEY
PERSONA YOU HAVE,
ISN'T IT?

AND THIS
COSTUME?



THE COSTUME
IS NOT PART OF
ANY DELUSION!
THAT COSTUME
IS--IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT
KEEPS ME--



SANE?



NO. YOU
WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND.

WHEN
MY OFFICERS
DRAGGED YOU IN YOU
WERE TALKING ABOUT
**WEREWOLVES ATTACKING
THE MOON**. DO YOU
REMEMBER THAT? OR IS
THAT JUST SOMETHING
ELSE I WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND?



LOOK, I **AM**
SICK. I--I KNOW
THAT. BUT I DID NOT
KILL THOSE PEOPLE!
FOR GOD'S SAKE,
GENA--THE OWNER OF
THE DINER--SHE WAS
ONE OF MY **BEST
FRIENDS!**



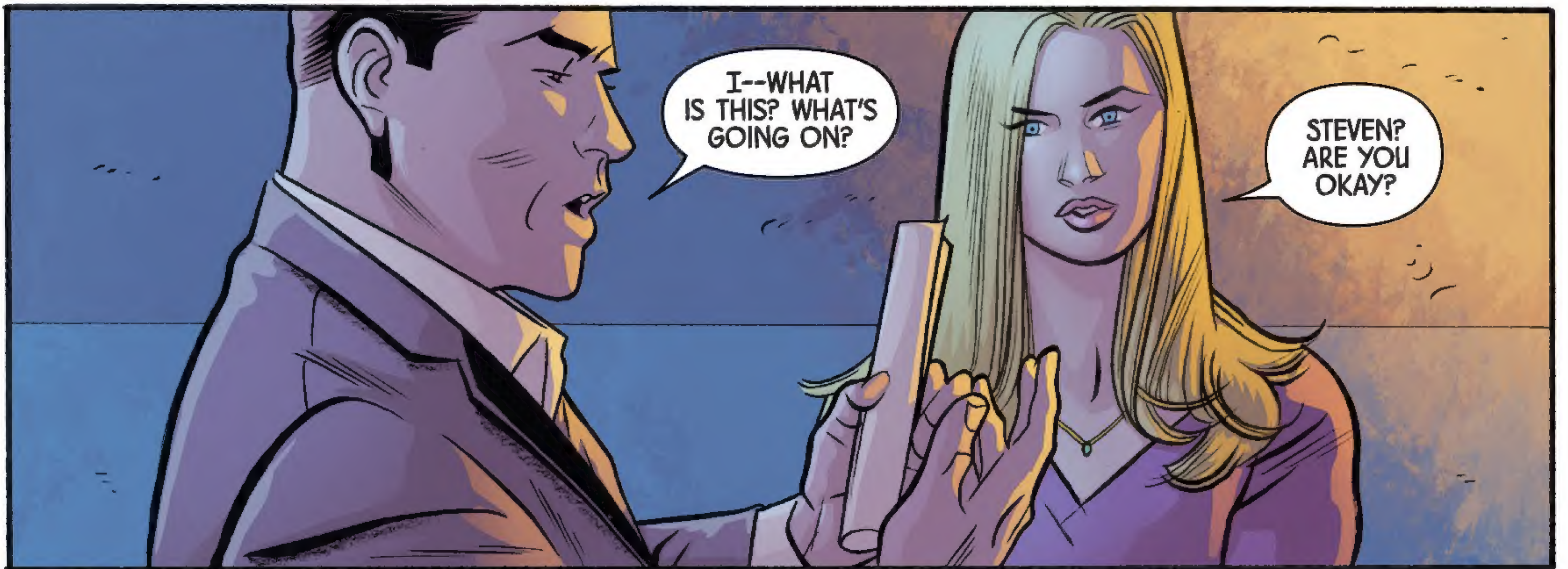
THEN WHY
DID YOU KILL
HER?

I DIDN'T!
GET ME MY
DAMN
LAWYER!



W-WHAT?
WHAT IS
THIS?

CUT!



STEVEN?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

I--WHAT
IS THIS? WHAT'S
GOING ON?



SORRY,
STEVEN. I FUMBLER
MY LINE THERE. CAN WE
TRY IT AGAIN FROM
THE TOP?

I--

STEVEN?



YES, OF
COURSE. SORRY.
LET'S GO AGAIN.



ACTION.

WHAT?



NOTHING.
I--

WHERE WERE
YOU ON THE NIGHTS
OF OCTOBER 6 AND
OCTOBER 13 BETWEEN
ELEVEN P.M. AND
ONE A.M.?



WHAT?

THERE WERE
TWO OTHER SIMILAR
MURDER SPREES THOSE
NIGHTS. BUT YOU KNOW
THAT, DON'T YOU? THE
BUGLE IS CALLING YOU
THE MIDNIGHT
MAN.



THEY SAY
YOU "STALK THE
NIGHT" IN
A COSTUME, PREYING
ON THE INNOCENT.



NOW WAIT
A DAMNED
MINUTE!

I'M DONE
WITH HIM FOR
NOW. TAKE HIM
TO HOLDING.

HOLD ON! IF--
IF THERE IS A KILLER
OUT THERE, THEN YOU
ARE MAKING A BIG
MISTAKE!



I--I CAN
STOP HIM. GIVE
ME A CHANCE! I
CAN BRING THE
REAL KILLER TO
JUSTICE!

SHUT
YOUR MOUTH,
FREAK.





KHONSHU, HELP ME.



THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SCRUMPTIOUS MEAL, DARRYL. I LEAVE WITH A FULL BELLY AND A FULL HEART.

GOOD TO HEAR. YOU BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, CRAWLEY. THEM STREETS AIN'T SAFE NO MORE.



CRAWLEY.

AH!



I NEED YOUR HELP.

WELL, MY DEAR BOY, YOU PRACTICALLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK. I'D BE LITTLE HELP TO ANYONE THEN, WOULD I?



SOMEONE IS KILLING... HUNTING.

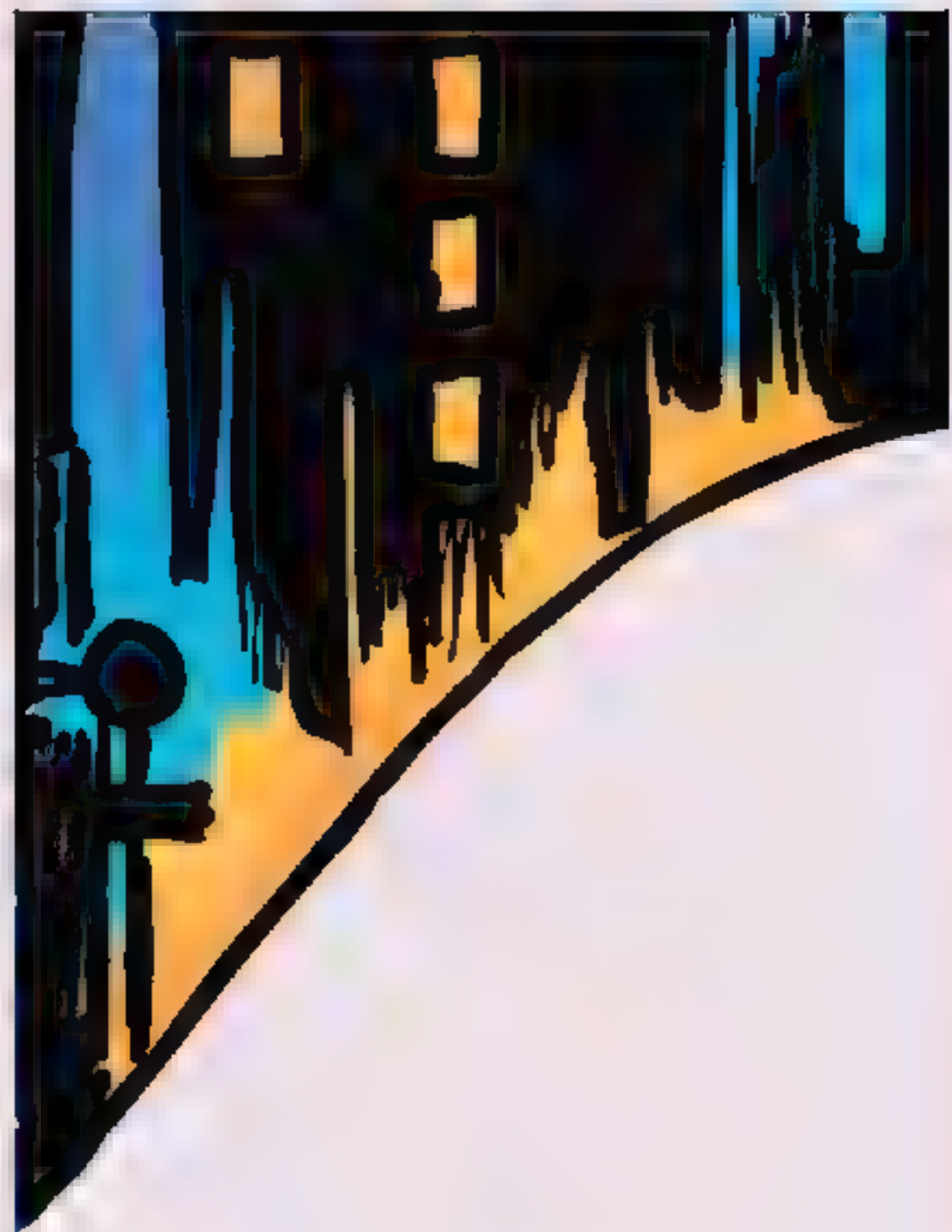
THE MIDNIGHT MAN. YES, I'VE HEARD TALK OF THE GHOUL. SO HE'S REAL? NOT JUST ANOTHER GHOST STORY OF THE GUTTERS?

HE'S REAL. **TOO REAL.** WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ON THE STREETS?

DO YOU REALLY THINK I CAN HELP YOU?

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN ALLY, CRAWLEY. WHY NOT NOW?

BECAUSE, MOON KNIGHT... **I SOLD MY SOUL** FOR YOU. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

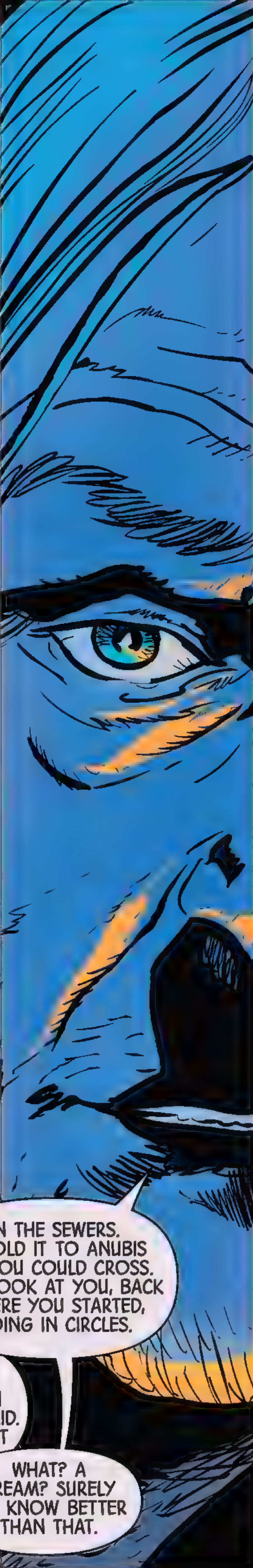


YOUR SOUL? BUT I--

IN THE SEWERS. I SOLD IT TO ANUBIS SO YOU COULD CROSS. AND LOOK AT YOU, BACK WHERE YOU STARTED, GOING IN CIRCLES.

I--I REMEMBER SOMETHING...THE STREETS FILLED WITH SAND. A GIANT PYRAMID. BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST--

WHAT? A DREAM? SURELY YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.

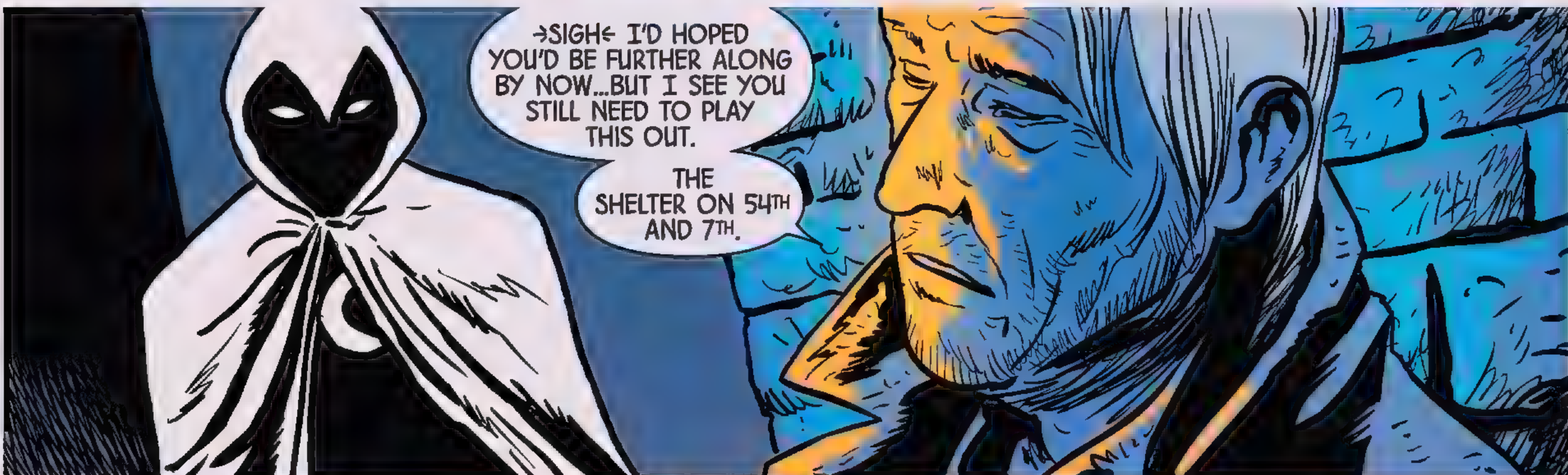




I CAN'T HELP YOU BECAUSE
I'M NOT REALLY HERE.
NEITHER ARE YOU.

CRAWLEY,
WAIT!

PLEASE. THERE
ARE LIVES AT STAKE.
THE MIDNIGHT MAN...



→SIGH← I'D HOPED
YOU'D BE FURTHER ALONG
BY NOW...BUT I SEE YOU
STILL NEED TO PLAY
THIS OUT.

THE
SHELTER ON 54TH
AND 7TH.



A STRANGE MAN
HAS BEEN STAYING
THERE. I'VE SEEN HIM
SNEAKING OUT JUST BEFORE
ELEVEN ON EACH OF THE NIGHTS
THE MIDNIGHT MAN STRUCK.
ONE NIGHT I SAW HIM RETURN
WITH BLOOD ON HIS
CLOTHES.



THAT--THAT'S
A VERY **SPECIFIC**
LEAD, CRAWLEY.



IT'S ALL
WHAT YOU CHOOSE
TO DO WITH IT, MY
BOY. I HOPE TO SEE
YOU SOON.



CRAWLEY'S WORDS
ECHO THROUGH MY
HEAD AS I MAKE MY
WAY THROUGH THE
MURKY NIGHT.

I USED TO THINK CRAWLEY
WAS CRAZY. BUT NOW...
NOW I WONDER WHAT
CRAZY REALLY MEANS.

I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN WHAT
I'M DOING. THIS IS ALL I HAVE...
THIS MOMENT. THE WIND IN
MY FACE. THAT FEELS REAL.

REAL ENOUGH,
ANYWAY.

I MAKE IT TO THE ROOF
OF THE SHELTER BY ELEVEN
THIRTY AND PRAY I'M
NOT ALREADY TOO LATE.

AAAAARGH!!!



MARLENE?!

MOON KNIGHT!
BE CAREFUL! HE--
HE'S INSANE!

QUIET!

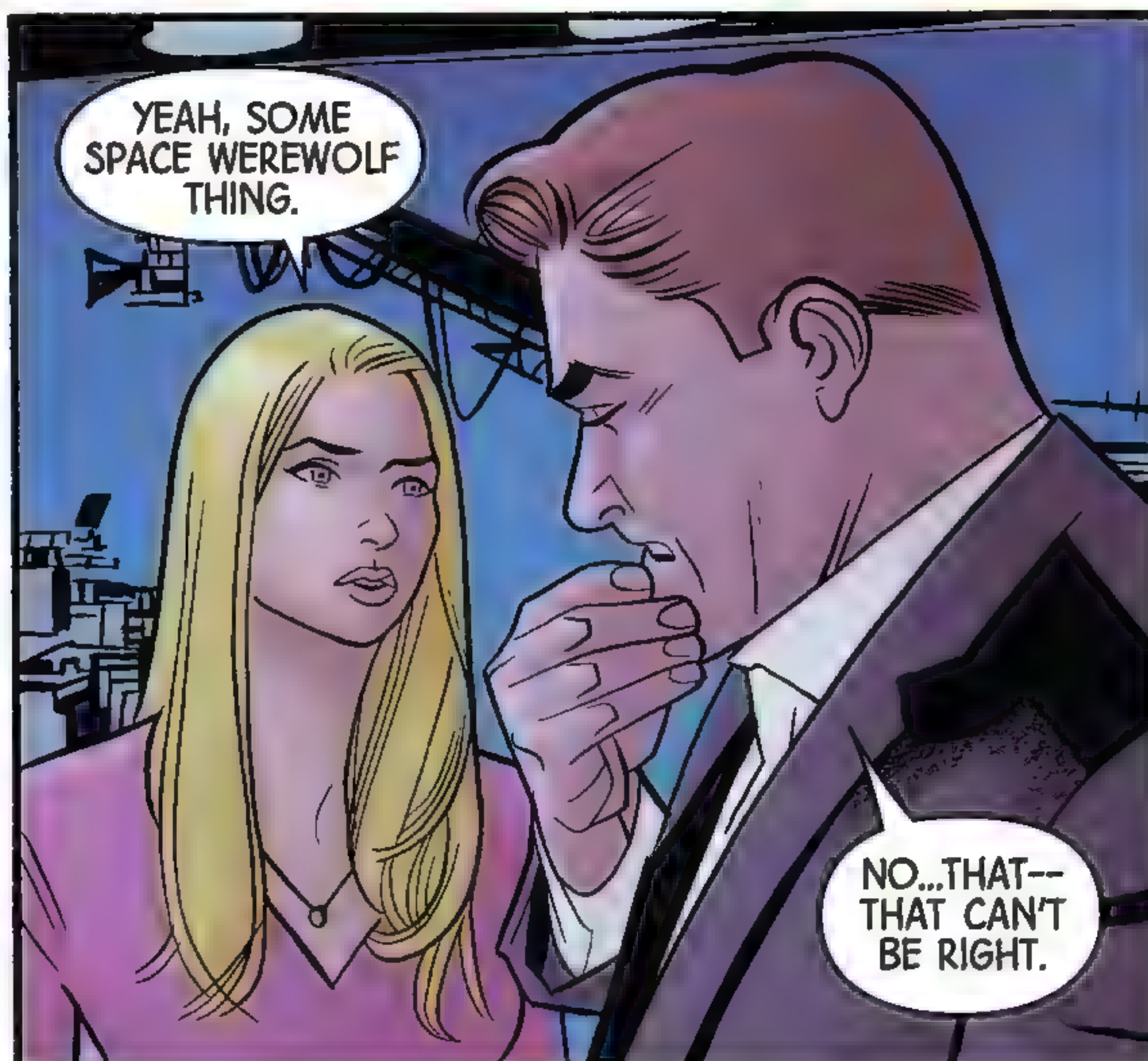


LET HER GO
AND FACE ME,
YOU GHOUL.

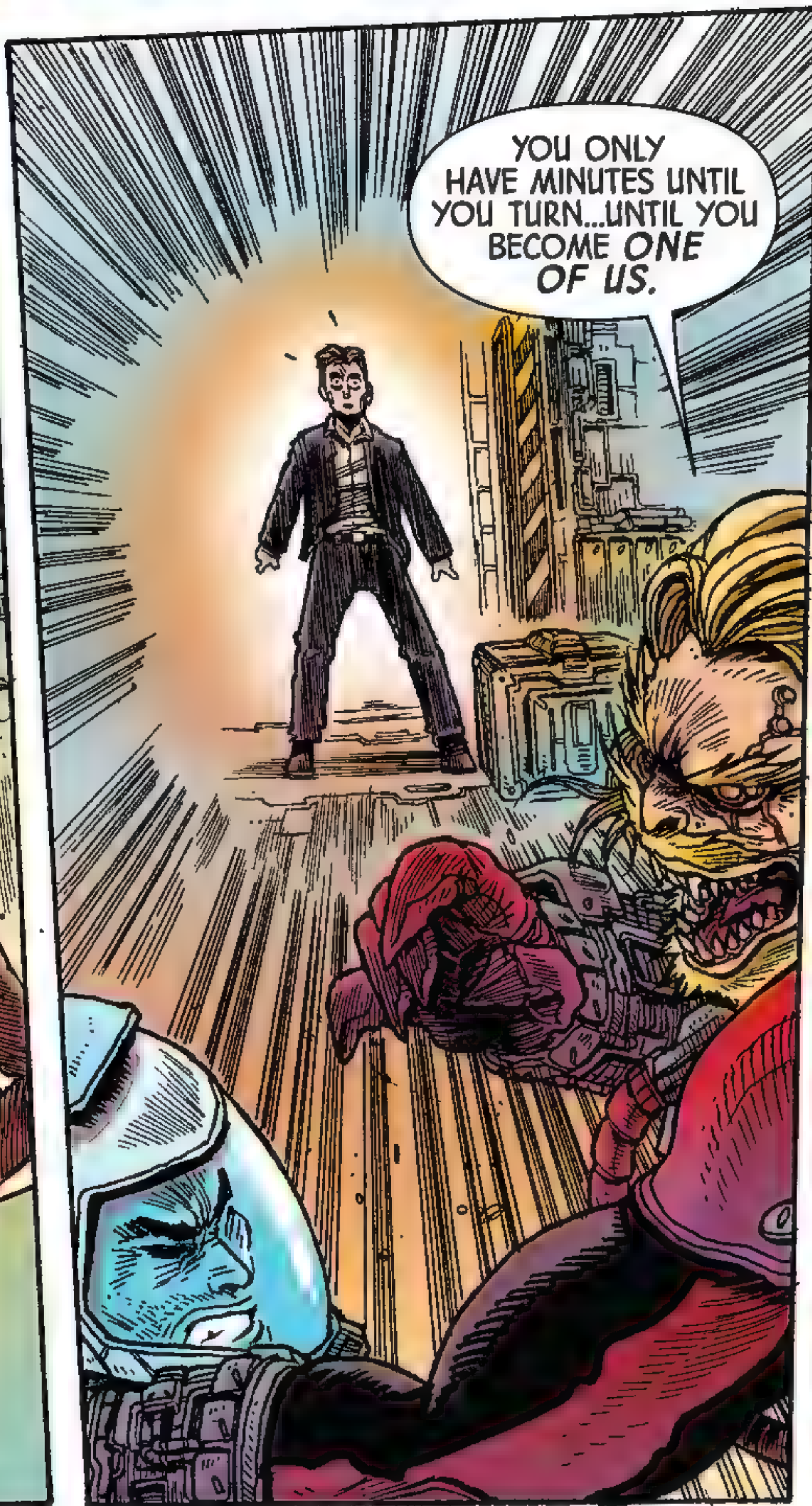
YOU'RE THE
ONE I'VE WANTED
ALL ALONG, MOON
KNIGHT. ALL OF THOSE
DEATHS WERE AN
INVITATION TO
THIS DEADLY
DANCE.

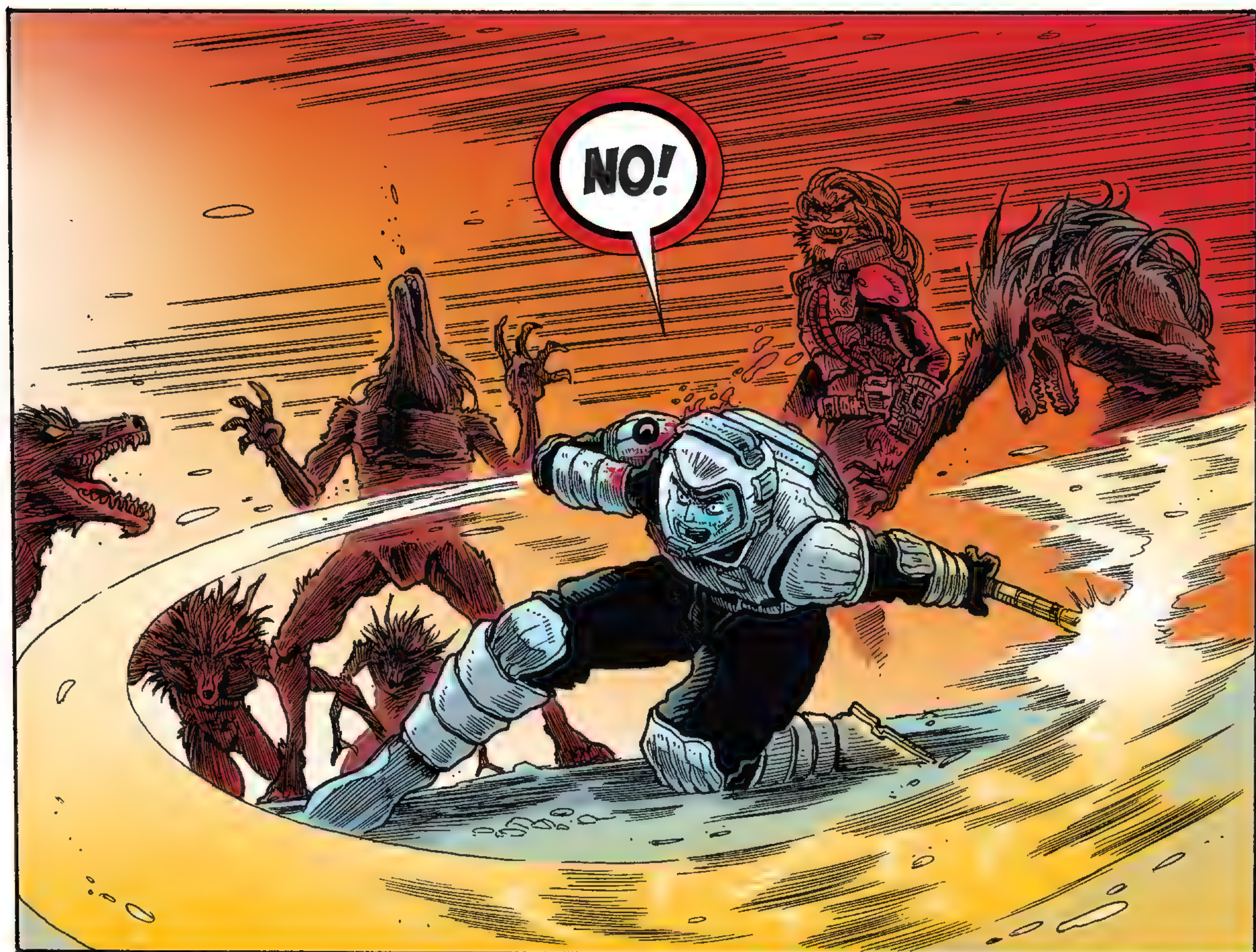


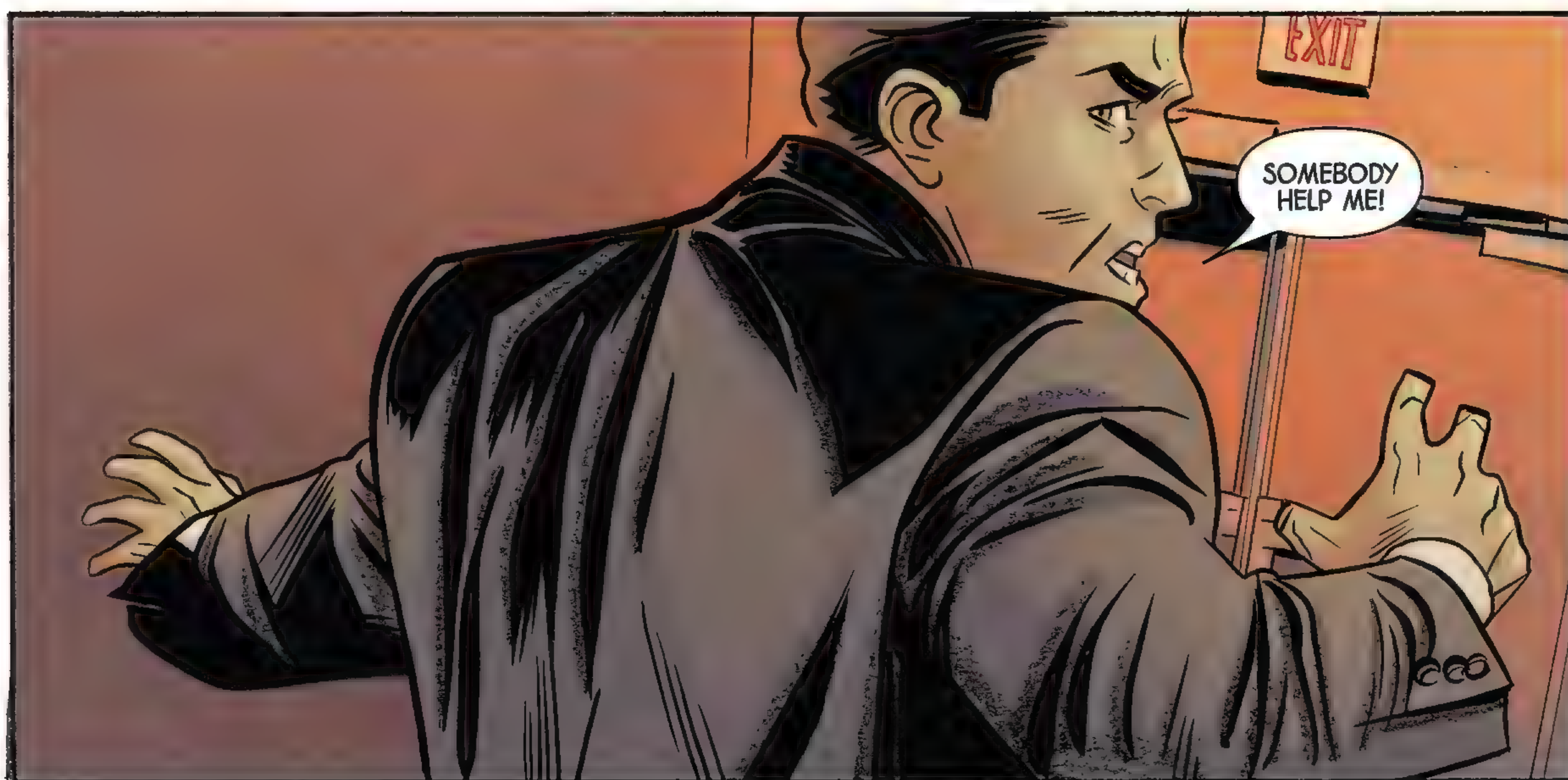
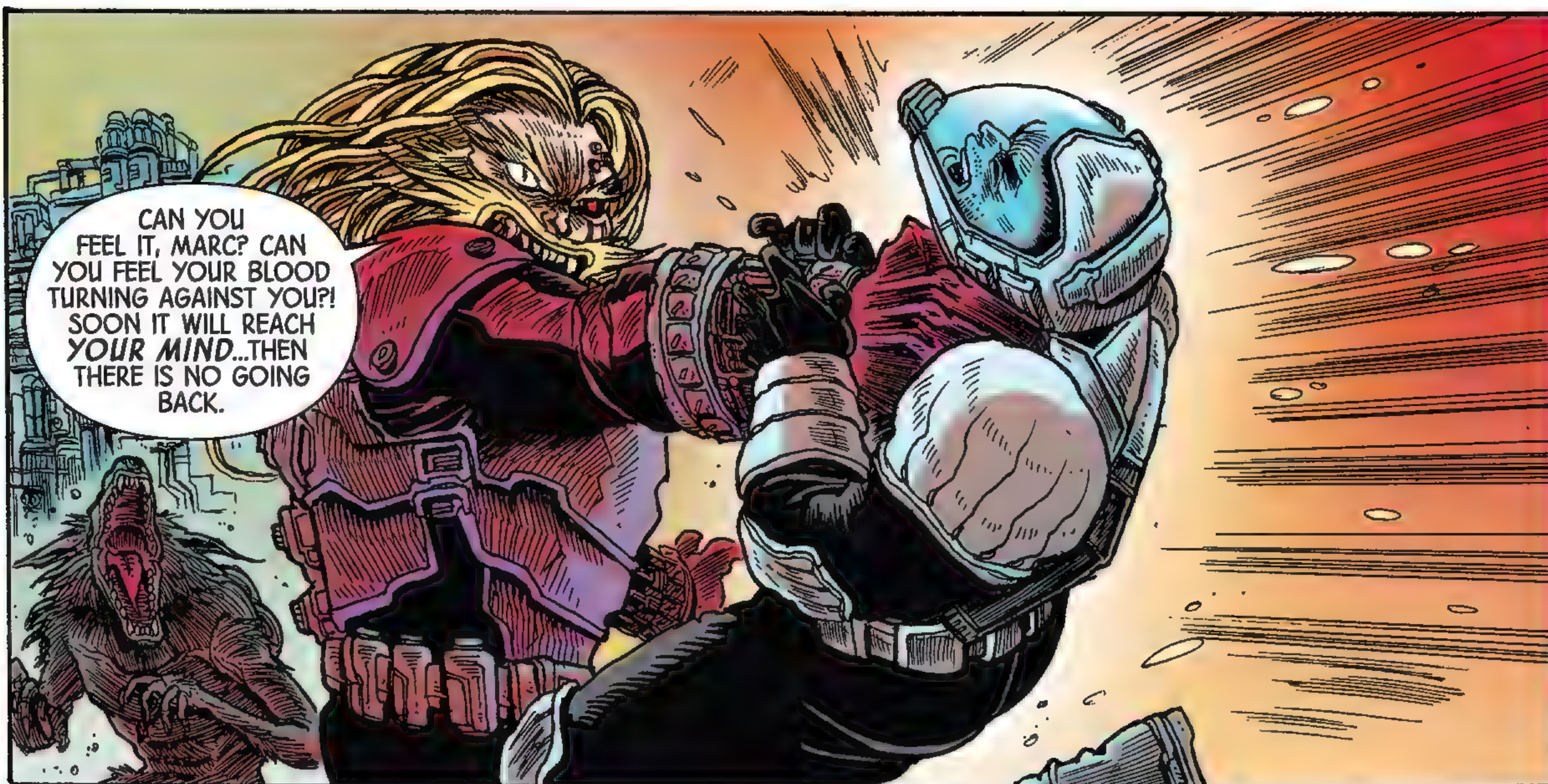
"DEADLY
DANCE"? REALLY?
IS THAT THE BEST
YOU CAN COME
UP WITH?















**NEXT ISSUE:
GROUP THERAPY.**

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to
mheroes@marvel.com and
mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

Hello, Moonies!

Well, that clears everything up, right? As promised, writer Jeff Lemire is back to answer more of your letters! I'm not sure what you have to write about now that all your MOON KNIGHT questions have been answered, but let's not squander this opportunity. Here's Jeff!

Hello MK creative team,

Moon Knight is a character that means a lot to me. I'm sure you guys get letters like this all the time, but as a mentally ill Jewish man I see a lot of things in Marc and his struggles that I have faced and am facing. I've read a lot of MOON KNIGHT, even the really early stuff when he was beating up racist thugs and skinheads defiling synagogues and stopping the Committee, but this run is really something special to me. I think something that really resonated with me in this series was the way Jeff handled Khonshu; it felt really good for Marc to finally tell Khonshu to stuff it up his ghostly beak after being lied to and manipulated by him for so long (regardless of if he comes back). Even though I'm gonna miss Marc, I'm sure he'll be back in due time and I'm excited to see what you guys have planned for the future. Thank you so much to everybody who has made this book the incredible experience that it is. It's books like this one that make me want to create comics!

You're all doing an amazing job,
Jacob

Thanks for the note, Jacob, it means a lot to know our story is resonating with you. And you

may be interested to know that we will delve a bit deeper into Marc's Jewish upbringing in future issues.

Hey!

Can I just say, whoa! Issue #5 is so great! I really like the art switch to help show all the different moments and mental delusions. I'm in shock and awe, because even we are left in confusion of what's real or not. I love stories that really make the audience question what's happening and so far you've really made me feel as confused as Marc. Enough about that, though! I was wondering if you have any tips for cosplaying Moon Knight by any chance?

Sincerely,
Brandon Peña

I love these kinds of stories too, Brandon. My take on MOON KNIGHT, and almost everything I have ever done, is heavily influenced by my favorite storyteller and artist, David Lynch. Lynch knows how to embrace mystery and ambiguity more than any other artist I've ever studied and I learned a lot from him.

Dear MOON KNIGHT team,

I've been an MK fan for a little over a decade now. I found an online checklist listing all of his comics and appearances, and by the end of this week, I will have finished that checklist to up until about 2007-08. But nothing has caught my excitement quite like this arc. It's intriguing, fascinating, amazing, beautifully drawn, and I can't wait for more. Still hoping we get a Netflix announcement sometime soon. Again, thank you for this arc, and I can't wait for the

next step.

Make Mine MOON KNIGHT,
Harri W
Los Angeles (originally from NY)

Harri! Thanks so much. It's a relief to know that we resonate with longtime MK fans too. I certainly did my homework and pored over all of the past MK runs. The Moench/Sienkiewicz run is heavily important to what we are doing and I hope any readers who have not yet read those classic MK stories go back and look for them now. Reading those will help enhance your enjoyment of the work Greg, Jordie, and I are doing (not to mention Wilfredo, Francesco, and the other Jeff).

Hey guys,

Avid Moon Knight fan, here. Been a huge fan of the character since I was small, and I wanted to say that your take on the character is what I've wanted for him for a while!

The uncertainty of what Marc (?) is telling us/showing us is something I really wanted to see done and you guys have pulled it off so well.

Can't wait to see what's in store for Moonie and friends in the future.

Cheers,
Liam Sheridan

Thanks, Liam! I know I'm having a blast writing the series, so it's amazing to see people respond the way they have!

To the editors of MOON KNIGHT,

This is the first Moon Knight series I've had the chance to read and it's become one of my favorite comics. Awesome character, awesome writer, and awesome artist. Issue #5 was fantastically well done with a whole crew of great artists. One of the coolest things I've seen in recent comics, not to mention one of my absolute favorite covers. Each issue continues to amaze me and I can't wait to see where this series goes next!

Sarah B.

Sarah, I can't say enough about Greg's covers. Some of the best I have ever seen, and I've seen A LOT of comic book covers in my forty years.

To the Moon Knight team,

Big comics reader (Franco-Belgian and U.S.) here, and I must say that the work done by Jeff Lemire and the artists (especially Greg Smallwood) on MOON KNIGHT puts it in the top three of my favorite comics at the moment.

I've been constantly surprised since issue #1. Jeff Lemire provides an approach that is both classic (his use of the Moon Knight of ancient history and recent) and innovative (his reinterpretation of the story of Moon Knight). I must say that Moon Knight is one of my favorite heroes. I always enjoyed the totally schizophrenic character of Marc Spector but the simply brilliant idea—putting him in a psychiatric hospital—allowed for a completely new look at the old stories...and then there was the revelation of the shooting and...wolves of space...

Jeff Lemire just created—I'm at the 6th issue by now—three levels of reality for Moon Knight and others and we still do not know the end!

Precisely at the end of my reading of issue #6, when Marc Spector opens the door and finds himself in space, I knew where I was! Jeff Lemire's script reminded me one of the greatest science

fiction comic books: MAJOR FATAL (or Le garage hermétique du Major Grubert)! One of the best comics of Mœbius!

And I loved it!!!

I do not know if this is intentional or not on the part of Jeff Lemire! Can he tell us whether this is precisely one of his inspirations for the series?

Major Grubert monitors worlds from afar but no one knows how they work. He passes from one level of reality to another just by opening a door. The brilliant design by James Stokoe also resembles that of Mœbius through the use of hatching and filled boxes.

I do not know where Jeff Lemire will take us but I'll continue reading! My aim is simply to give a great compliment on his work and the work of the artists and the editorial team!

Following all series written by Jeff Lemire, I find his writing and ideas give a new perspective that you cannot give up after starting and it includes very reflective characters. He managed to find the right tone immediately with MOON KNIGHT. His work on this character is the same level as the great episodes of Doug Moench and Bill Sienkiewicz (the "Morpheus Saga"!!!).

I hope all of you will continue this momentum and do not hesitate to get lost in a multitude of levels of reality.

I've read Marvel comics since the age of 11 (I'm 41) without stopping. Being a French reader, I started with the French translations in journals like STRANGE and SPECIAL STRANGE and continued later with your editions. All of which is to say that if you continue to publish series as good as MOON KNIGHT, I will continue reading for another 40 years!

And no matter if these realities are true or not, we will follow Moon Knight to the end!

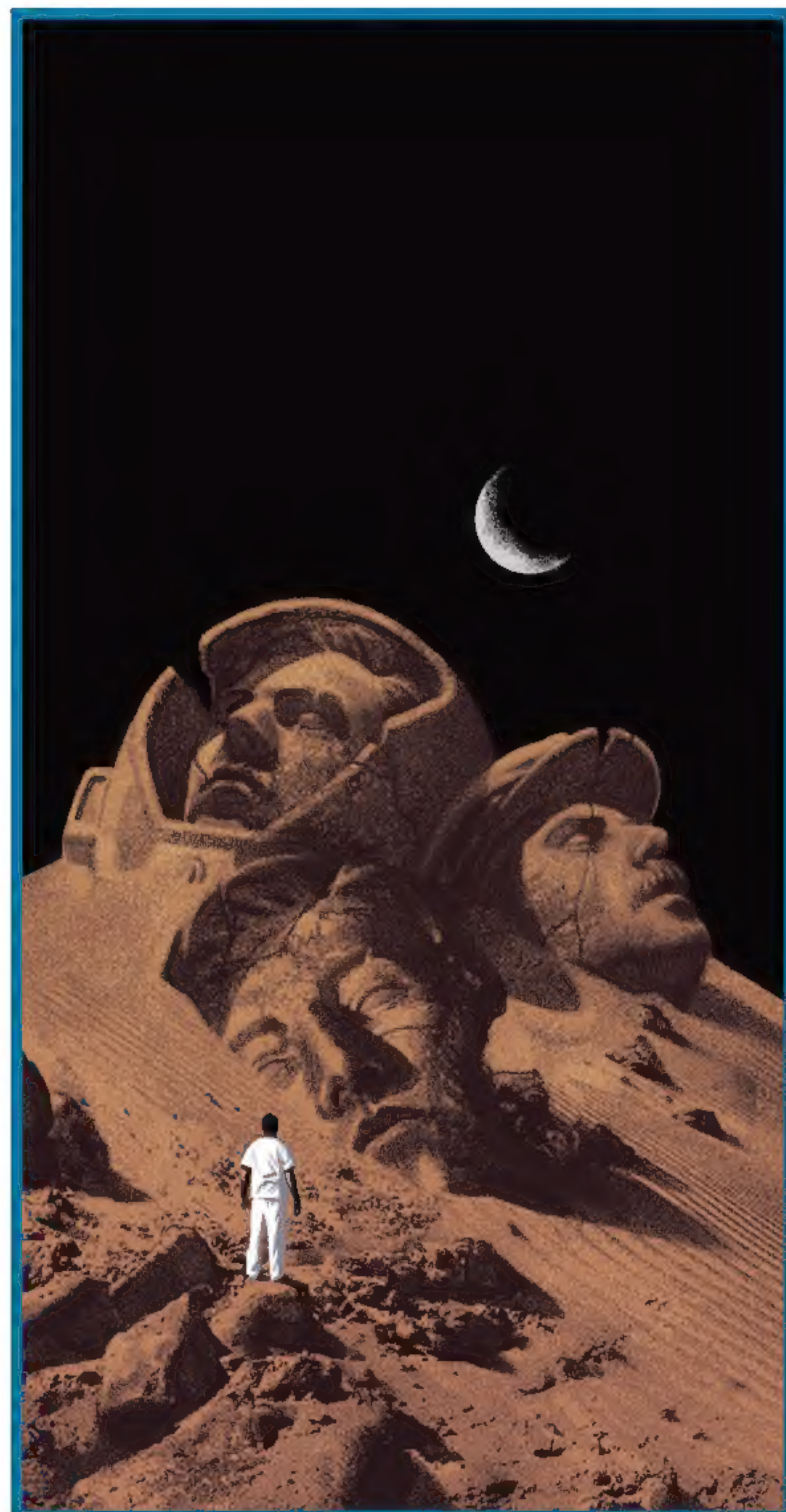
Make Mine Marvel!
Stéphane Nafir-Gouillon
Paris, France

Stéphane, I have not read

or seen MAJOR FATAL before, but based on your letter, I am certainly going to seek it out. It sounds right up my alley. I will say that Mœbius has been a huge inspiration on some of my other work, though. When drawing my 2014 series, TRILLIUM, Mœbius' work was never far from my desk. So maybe he did slip into the DNA of MK somewhere after all.

In terms of specific inspirations and influences on my take on MK, I would point to the films ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, TWELVE MONKEYS, and THE FISHER KING. (Like David Lynch, Terry Gilliam is a big inspiration on my stuff.)

Guys, I was just kidding before—there's plenty more to say! Keep telling us what you think about MOON KNIGHT and what MOON KNIGHT makes you think about. This is the part where I'd ask you to come back next month for issue #9, but look at that cover! How could you miss it?! Until next time, remain odd!



(This has been Kathleen filling in for Jake T.)

